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Long-Range Plan for Our Nation

For sometime past a few of the nation's more thoughtful leaders have been decrying most vociferously the United States' lack of national goals.

Monday it is expected that these critics will be silenced, at least for a time, by the release of a report by President Eisenhower's Commission on National Goals.

Proposed by the President in his State of the Union message in 1959, the study by the National Goals Commission is being released tomorrow after many delays.

The aim of the study was to produce long-range plans for the nation's social and economic well-being. These "guidelines" were to extend "certainly five, possibly 10 years" ahead.

These plans were worked out by a non-governmental group. The President, at a press conference on Oct. 28, 1959, indicated he had been unable to get the \$3 million to \$5 million in private funds needed to pay for the study. The Rockefeller Fund, which had conducted similar studies, had shown interest, as had the Carnegie, Ford and Sloan foundations. But these groups at that time had shied off for lack of specific information about objectives and organization.

By last February financing had finally been set. President Eisenhower then appointed a commission headed by Henry Merritt Wriston, former president of Brown University. The 11-member group, nonpartisan in composition, includes men of the calibre of Colgate W. Darden, former governor of Virginia; retired U. S. Appeals Judge Learned Hand; AFL-CIO President George Meany; and Crawford H. Greenwalt, president of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co.

president, who was later to shape the Republican platform at the 1960 convention. After analysis by White House staff members, it was accepted in a somewhat watered-down form.

Staff work for the commission was directed by William P. Bundy, former Central Intelligence Agency official. He recruited a group of authorities on such subjects as foreign policy, defense, science, and the like. Each of these, after consulting an advisory panel, wrote one chapter in a 16-chapter background book. The commission's own shorter report is based on this background work.

The Advertising Council of the commission is conducting a nationwide campaign urging Americans to read the commission report. It will be published in book form by Prentice-Hall on Dec. 12.

The timing of the release of the report and of its publication was intentional, the aim being to keep it out of politics. Both Sen. Kennedy and Vice President Nixon, however, were kept informed of the progress of the commission.

The report charts a path toward broad national objectives. Its mandate from the President was to outline "programs for the next decade and longer."

Nevertheless, while it is not expected to stress governmental action to achieve these national objectives, it should be specific enough to be useful to a new administration headed by a President who throughout the campaign urged the necessity of "getting America moving" toward new national goals — or, in his own words, "New Frontiers."

Certainly all thinking Americans are awaiting this report with interest, for it most definitely represents some of the finest thinking on what paths our nation like in the immediate and not too distant future.

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